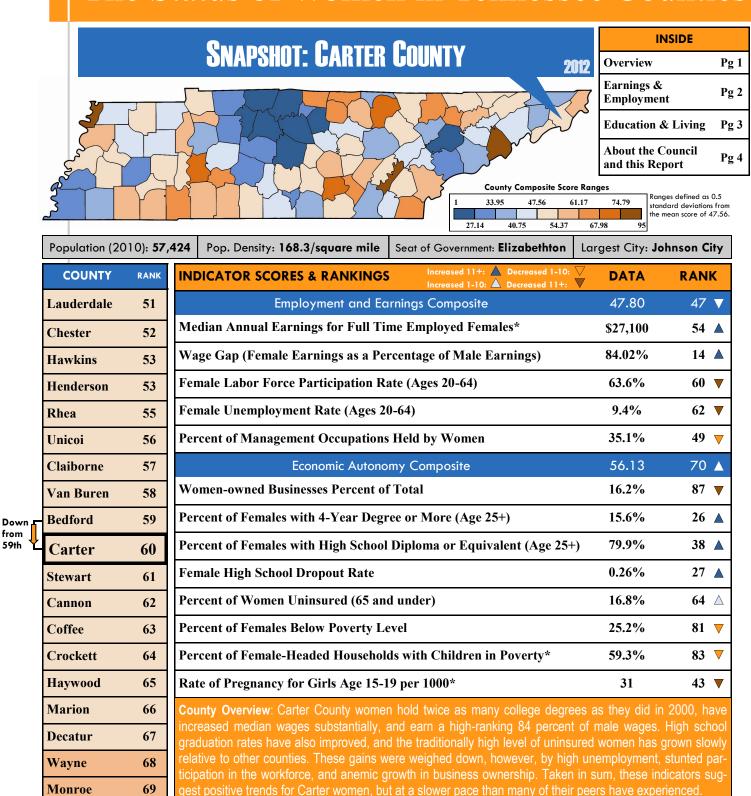
## The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties



Note: all figures are based on estimates formed from sample data and are subject to sample error and rounding.

<sup>\*</sup> The American Community Survey (ACS) is an annual demographic survey of the U.S. It provides the detailed demographic, economic and housing data that was once supplied by the Decennial Census Long Form. The ACS has a smaller sample so combines several years' data to produce multi-year estimates. Due to the small sample size there is an increased margin of error in many less populated counties for this indicator.

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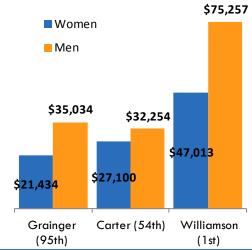
<sup>‡</sup> Estimates are too unreliable or not available to be included in composite calculations. Any figure shown is an estimate for the reader's benefit only.

# The Status of Women in: Carter County

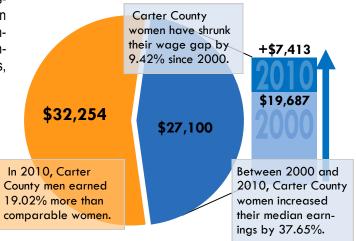
## **▲** Earnings

arter County women made significant gains in median income between 2000 and 2010, increasing their rank from 77th to 54th and outpacing inflation estimates during that period by 11 percent. The increase of \$7,413 also brought women's median earnings to within 16 percent of their male counterparts, resulting in the state's 14th smallest wage gap.

### Median Earnings: Counties Compared

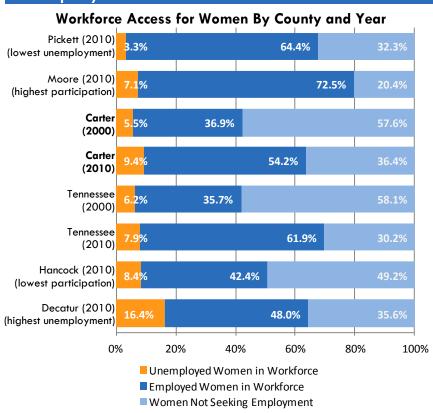


#### Median Earnings and the Wage Gap, 2000-2010



**Despite** these gains, Carter County women lagged behind the state-wide figure for median income; \$31,585. It is also noteworthy that gains among women in the county were not matched by gains among men, whose median incomes grew by less than \$6,000 and ranked 80th in the state in 2010. Considered together, these trends likely have a mixed impact on the living standards of Carter County families.

### **▼** Employment

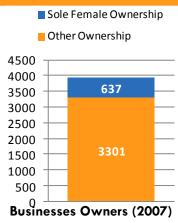


Women in Carter County participated in the workforce at a moderate rate of 63.6 percent (ranked 60th) between 2000 and 2010. Growth in this category was slower in Carter than in many counties, however, leading to a dip from 41st place in 2000. Women lagged behind Carter County men in this category by slightly under 10 percent.

Women in Carter County were not only increasingly likely to be working, there is also a growing population of women seeking work unsuccessfully. Both men and women were unemployed at a rate near 9.4 percent, and Carter ranked 62nd in the state the unemployment indicator, down from 35th in 2000.

The specific population of women with children under six was unemployed at the slightly higher rate of 9.5 percent. The disparity between this population and women overall in this measure was much smaller in Carter than in most of the state.

## The Status of Women in: Carter County



**Business** ownership estimates improved by roughly 0.5 percent between 2000 and 2007, while more recent data on the countywide share of management positions held by women saw a more significant growth rate of 7.7 percent as of 2010.

Worsened by this lack of growth in ownership, Carter County fell to 87th in the state in the percentage of businesses owned by women. The county also slipped from 43rd to 49th in the presence of women in management positions, despite positive trends.

#### **Women At Work**

#### **Business Management**

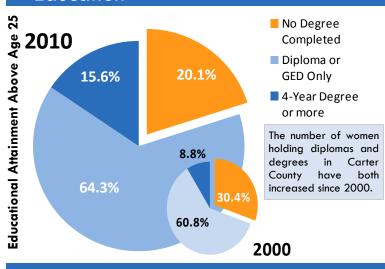
The incidence of female managers in Carter County increased from 27.4% to 35.1% between 2000 and 2010.

#### Business Ownership

The percentage of women business owners in Carter County increased from 15.7% to 16.2% between 2000 and 2007.



#### **▲** Education



**Academic** indicators improved across the board for Carter County women between 2000 and 2010. The number of women holding four year degrees, for example, nearly doubled (ranked 26th, up from 69th), with a 10.3 percent decrease showing in women holding no degree or diploma.

More women held diplomas in the county as well, and this figure improved at a faster rate relative to it's peers in other counties, causing Carter to rise ten ranks from 48th to 38th by this measure.

Dropout rates also exceeded statewide trends, plummeting from 5.9 percent in 2000 to 27th ranked 0.26 percent during the 11-12 school year.

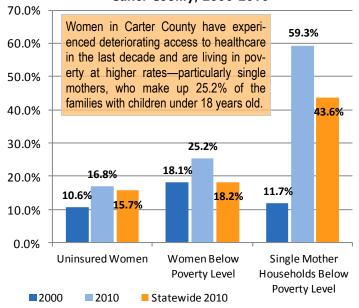
### ▼ Living

**Women** in Carter County have seen significant, though familiar, decreases in living standards since 2000. As of 2010, a much higher percentage of women in the county lived in poverty than was found in statewide estimates, and households headed by single mothers were particularly affected—nearly 50 percent more lived in poverty in 2010 than in 2000. In fact, Carter County dropped several spots in both indicators, worsening in ranks that were already near the bottom of state rankings—now 81st for all women and 83rd for single mothers.

Similar hardship was observed when considering women's access to affordable health care. Carter County continued to be one of the worst performers in this category after 2000, though access decreased slowly enough during this period to improve the county's ranking from 72nd to 64th.

The 2010 pregnancy rate among teens of 31 in 1000 girls compared favorably to the state rate of 37, but reflected a relative increase, which caused a drop in rank to 43rd.

#### Health and Poverty Indicators for Women: Carter County, 2000-2010



## About the Council and this Report

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of management occupations held by women.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of women with any kind of health insurance, percentage of women living in poverty and percentage of single female-headed households living in poverty, the female high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

Research & Authorship by: William Arth, Senior Research Manager & Julia Reynolds-Thompson, Fmr Research Analyst

Visit the Economic Council on Women at www.tennesseewomen.org

SOURCES	
Employment and Earnings	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Selected Economic Characteristics' *
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as Percent of Male Earnings)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Selected Economic Characteristics'
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Employment Status'
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Employment Status'
Percent of Management Occupations Held by Women	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Occupation by Sex and Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months for Full-Time, Year-Round Civilian Employed Population, 16 year and older'
Economic Autonomy	
Women-Owned Businesses Percent of Total	U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Survey of Business Owners 'Statistics for All U.S. Firms by Industry, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race' † ‡
Percent of Females with 4-Yr Degree or More (Age 25+)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Educational Attainment'
Percent of Females with High School Diploma (Age 25+)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Educational Attainment'
Female High School Dropout Rate	Tennessee Department of Education, 2011-2012 School Year
Percent of Women Uninsured (65 or under)	U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates
Percent of Women Below Poverty Level	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months'
Percent of Female-headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families' *
Rate of Pregnancy for Girls 15-19 (per 1000)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Fertility' *

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